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NHA DEMOLISHES LAST TWO HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS AT HAYES HOMES

NEWARK, May 20, 2000 -- As part of its established goal to remove obsolete, nonviable public housing from Newark's skyline and replace it with appropriately-designed, quality housing, the Newark Housing Authority (NHA) today implodes the remaining two family, high-rise, brick buildings and a 140-high smokestack at the Reverend William P. Hayes Homes complex.

The implosion marks the final phase of demolition activity at the 46-year-old complex that once contained 10, 12-story, family buildings and 1,458 housing units. Following the depopulation of the buildings in December 1995, the NHA subsequently initiated a four-phase campaign that began with the demolition of four of the complex's 10 buildings in December 1997. In August 1999, the NHA resumed demolition of Hayes by razing four, 12-story buildings, which was followed by the demolition of the 98-unit elderly, high-rise building in December 1999.

"Today's implosion represents the final passage of Hayes Homes into the annals of public housing," said NHA Executive Director Robert Graham. "This development provided a decent living environment for many families, but has outlived its ability to offer the standard of living that our residents deserve.

"This effort is a continuation of our collaboration with Mayor Sharpe James and the Municipal Council to revitalize the city in general and the Central Ward in particular.

"We have constructed approximately 1,000 new townhouses throughout the city in the past six years as we continue our efforts to improve public housing in Newark and enhance the quality of life for our residents."

The two, 12-story buildings totaled 236,700 square feet and consisted of 292 units. Controlled Demolition, Inc. of Phoenix, Maryland fitted 1,100 holes with 330 pounds of explosives to collapse the buildings that were built in 1954. Yannuzzi & Sons, Inc. of Orange, New Jersey is the general demolition contractor.

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THE REVEREND WILLIAM P. HAYES HOMES

FACT SHEET

- * **LOCATION:** 68 Boyd Street, (Bounded by Irvine Turner Boulevard, 17th Avenue and West Kinney Street in Newark's Central Ward).
- * **DATE CONSTRUCTED:** 1954
- * **NUMBER OF BUILDINGS:** Two, 12-story residential buildings and one 140-foot smokestack.
- * **DEVELOPMENT TYPE:** Family high-rise
- * **NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS:** 292
- * **ACREAGE:** 5.5

Additional Information:

- * Eleven hundred (1,100) holes will be fitted with 330 pounds of explosives.
- * General Contractor: Yannuzzi & Sons, Inc., Orange, NJ.
- * Explosives by Controlled Demolition Inc., Phoenix, Maryland
- * Demolition Cost: \$953,800